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Health Plans

URGENT
TIME SENSITIVE REGULATORY INFORMATION

In 1994, the national Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, a federal entitlement program, began to provide vaccines at no cost to VFC-eligible children through enrolled public and private providers. All children 0-18 years of age who are Medicaid covered or Medicaid eligible, American Indian or Alaska Native, or uninsured are eligible for the VFC program. The VFC program covers most children who do not have insurance coverage. The Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) took this concept a step further and has worked diligently to finance and provide all vaccines to all Nevada children, regardless of insurance status, at no cost. Most states across the nation do not provide vaccines to insured children.

Due to decreased federal funds, the increasing number of vaccines, increased cost of vaccines, along with a growing population, the Nevada State Immunization Program (NSIP) is no longer able to provide free vaccines to children who have health insurance.

With this change in policy it will be important to notify plan participants of this transition. The patient's insurance companies will be billed for the cost of the vaccine and an administration fee. Although many insurance plans cover vaccinations, people do not always know the extent of their vaccination coverage. Notifying participants that they may see explanation of benefit reports with vaccine deductibles and copays is important. Parents need to be reminded to bring their insurance cards to their children's doctor visits.

Parents and schools are being notified to check with their benefit provider for coverage information or to call their insurance provider and ask the following questions:

- Do I have insurance that covers immunizations?

- Does my insurance cover these immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
 - Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP or Tdap)*
 - *Haemophilus influenza* type B (Hib)*
 - Hepatitis B (Hep B)*
 - Polio (IPV)*
 - Rotavirus (RV or Rota)
 - Pneumococcal (PCV7)
 - Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)*
 - Hepatitis A (Hep A)
 - Influenza (Flu)
 - Intranasal influenza vaccine (Flumist, LAIV, or CAIV)
 - Meningococcal (MCV4)
 - Human papillomavirus vaccine (HPV)
 - Varicella (Chickenpox)

*Denotes Universal Vaccines that will not be covered by VFC program.

If your health plans offer Flex Plan benefits, you may want to remind participants of this opportunity to off set out of pocket medical expenses.

Avoiding vaccine preventable diseases is one of the easiest things we can do, just by immunizing our children. For more information please visit our website at www.health.nv.gov .